

MINUTES
of the
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)
of
ARIZONA STATE PARKS
MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2007
AUDITORIUM, PHOENIX ZOO
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John called the meeting to order at 1:07pm. Ruth Shulman advised the Chair of a quorum.

Committee Members Present:

Harold "Drew" John, Chair
Mike Sipes
Richard "Hank" Rogers
Sandee McCullen
Pete Pfeifer
Rebecca Antle (arrived 1:25)

Committee Members Absent:

Jim Schreiner

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff:

Amy Racki, OHV Coordinator
Troy Waskey, OHV Planner
Robert Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grants Coordinator
Joy Hernbrode, Assistant Attorney General representing ASP
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Group Coordinator

Other Individuals Present:

Tammy Pike, US Forest Service (USFS)
Bill Gibson, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Marge Dwyer, BLM

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Members and Staff introduced themselves. Amy Racki welcomed Troy Waskey as the newest member of the OHV Program staff. Troy Waskey will be focusing on OHV pilot programs. Troy Waskey spoke briefly on his experience with various outdoor programs with the USFS in New Hampshire and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, among others.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the January 12, 2007 meeting.

Hank Rogers moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sandee McCullen seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

2. Discuss BLM OHV Education Project.

Amy Racki began the discussion by referring to items in the agenda packet on pages 16 to 20. The BLM has nearly completed their previous education grant, which provided OHV education programs with a Tread Lightly! focus, including map reading and GPS training.

The BLM has between \$35,000 and \$50,000 available through their Challenge Cost Share (CCS) project specifically set aside for use as matching funds for OHV education projects. OHVAG has in the past had discussions on how OHV education in Arizona should proceed. The dealer customer packet program has not yet been initiated. A proposal for further developing the packet program is detailed in the referenced pages of the agenda, which would take advantage of the available matching CCS funds. Ms. Racki asked OHVAG to provide their input on the proposal.

Essentially, this proposal entails that the dealer-customer packets include information such as the ASP-printed Nature Rules Recreation Guide, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Rules and Regulations for OHV use in Arizona, and the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) recreation permit packet. In addition, the dealer-customer packet would contain a “coupon” for a training class, and a give-away “cozie” emblazoned with a catchphrase touting responsible riding, bumper stickers, a Tread Lightly! pledge card, and a brief index including website on where to find riding information and how to join local rider clubs.

The dealer-customer training offered in the coupon would entitle customers to return to the dealer’s place of business once a month on Tuesday, for example, for a training session. The actual administration of this program would rest with the BLM, perhaps through Recreation Solutions. (The training coupon would also be distributed at “meet-and-greets.”)

The training sessions themselves would include subjects such as where to ride, how to maintain your vehicle, how to use maps and plan trips, among other topics.

Evaluating the effectiveness of the training would focus on the quality of the training rather than the quantity of training sessions provided.

OHVAG's past recommendation was that there be more focus on training in rural areas. Keeping this in mind, targeted dealers would be approximately 50% located in rural areas, and 50% in Maricopa, Pima and/or Pinal Counties. Another metric would involve tracking the number of dealer-customer packets distributed, though that metric would be more informational than evaluative. There would also be an evaluation of the overall training, involving customer survey.

Land managers have noted that there are no on the ground evaluations. One suggestion is to give out a map of a specific area, with land manager approval, and document what activities are currently taking place in that specific area. Then using university contacts, the effect of OHV education on a specific OHV site could be measured to determine the effectiveness of that education.

There were some other, less fully developed ideas discussed, such as CDs on "Where to Ride in Arizona" to be provided at training sessions, among other ideas.

The structure of this program at the moment is for matching funds to go through the BLM, who would also administer the contract in conjunction with ASP. The BLM would also hire two half-time staff members (possibly using Recreation Solutions;) one to do the training, and one to coordinate the program. ASP staff would provide general project contract administration duties, at ASP cost from the OHV Recreation Fund.

Page 20 of the agenda packet information outlines, in estimated terms, the costs of this project. The total estimate is \$123,000 before taking into consideration the up to \$50,000 in matching funds from the BLM. With those funds, the total cost to ASP would be estimated at approximately \$73,000. These costs would be part of the budget from the FY2007 OHV Recreation Fund dollars. Additional funds from the budgets of FY2008 and FY2009 would be used to continue the program.

This project involving the BLM would be one channel to deliver OHV education programs. Further discussion of other channels and means of administration followed.

Sandee McCullen asked for an explanation of the advantages of having the program channel through a federal agency. Amy Racki replied that ASP would be able to administer the contract, the BLM has matching funds, and they have already initiated an OHV education program. The alternative would be to send it out to bid. In that case, anyone providing a suitable bid would then be the program administrator. Chair John then

clarified that the ~\$50,000 in matching funds is only available through BLM. Mike Sipes asked about the BLM's response to these preliminary ideas.

Bill Gibson of the BLM said that the BLM's work on the original education grant through ASP, as mentioned earlier, is coming to an end. The BLM's question was whether to return the remaining grant funds, continue that program, or to find another education program through ASP to help use the BLM's remaining CCS funds. ASP provided the proposal for an OHV education program currently under discussion and the BLM is totally supportive. The CCS funds are designated for OHV education in any case.

Amy Racki also noted that though the proposed program being discussed offers "pieces" of the Tread Lightly! curriculum, the focus would be on dealer-customer education. There has been a BLM request that ASP and OHVAG review gaps in the OHV youth education efforts around the state. Those gaps could be closed by Tread Lightly! presentations to Boys and Girls Clubs for example. Other examples would be to target youth through the Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDD) and also through the Outdoor Recreation Information Resource Center to distribute maps and riding guides.

Mike Sipes said that he feels that the dealer-customer focus would mean that education is concentrated in the population of new vehicle owners or replacement vehicle owners. There is a large user population that already owns vehicles also in need of education that may not be reached through this program. He says that he serves on a USFS Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that is asked on a regular basis for OHV education funds by the NRCDDs, and the NRCDDs would be ideal education partners. Amy Racki said that NRCDDs could be provided funds through the ASLD to target youth.

The dealer-customer focused education will allow people to become aware of the ongoing nature of OHV training at the dealer's place of business. This provides incentives to both dealers and customers/potential customers to attend the training. In addition, the training coupon would be available to attendees at OHV Ambassador meet-and-greet events. This would be one way to reach those who already own vehicles. Chair John said that drawing present and future customers is one incentive for dealers to offer the training on-premises; another incentive is that dealers will want to keep in tune with the sport in their area so that they can deal knowledgeably with customers. He went on to suggest that the "dealer-customer" nomenclature be clarified, as he feels that's a bit confusing. Mike Sipes said that it may also be necessary to completely differentiate this training from that offered by the ATV Safety Institute (ASI). Further

conversation followed on what training is rebated by manufacturers. Mike Sipes emphasized the need to ensure that this training is adequately distinct from the ASI training.

Hank Rogers asked whether the map CD would be available to people who did not attend the training. Amy Racki clarified that “give-aways” such as the map CD would only be available to those taking the training. Hank Rogers went on to say that he is aware of a program available in Utah that offers OHV route maps available free. Mike Sipes said that Utah counties are making that offer. Further discussion followed on that topic. Chair John said that route education in particular would alleviate a lot of the problems with “wildcat” riders.

Pete Pfeifer reiterated his understanding about the program partnership structure. Amy Racki said that ASP would provide funds to BLM, and provide strict oversight of the program. She said that much of the development of the training curriculum and dealer packet info has been or will be developed by an interdisciplinary group of dealers, OHV users and land managers so that the program is as complete and useful as possible. Then, the BLM would be responsible for delivering the training, or put that work out for bid. Most likely would be that BLM would partner with Recreation Solutions and Tom Bickaaskas. They may use a contracted person to handle the coordination of producing dealer packets, getting them out to the dealers and so forth. The actual trainer will need to be a person who has the specialized knowledge to deliver the training well. Before signing any final agreements, ASP would be familiar with the people designated to handle these tasks.

Pete Pfeifer asked if there was a dealer association. Chair John said that one had been formed approximately six months ago. He then went on to say that the agreements would be between BLM and ASP, without necessarily involving the dealer association in formulating the program. Drafting the agreement properly would take care of much of the concern. Pete Pfeifer said that he felt that, to him, the proposal lacked a comfortable level of detail.

Chair John went on to say that the dealer packet has been under discussion for approximately a year, and that Amy Racki saw the opportunity to mesh that program together with the training program as well as garner an additional \$50,000. Getting input from OHVAG is necessary in order to move forward.

Mike Sipes asked what target date and funding amount is being committed to the ASLD for the NRCD program. Amy Racki replied that originally the amount under discussion was \$30,000. However, for FY2007 we are unable to meet that. An option is to provide a reduced amount for FY2007.

The NRCDs are scheduled to meet in early July and that would be the opportunity to develop a clearer picture of the need. There are also interagency agreement issues, and the need for the ASLD to fill an NRCD position opening.

Sandee McCullen asked if the funding for Tread Lightly! programs was being eliminated entirely. Amy Racki said that the message will be integrated into the dealer packet and the dealer-customer training. However, the emphasis will be on tailoring the training to Arizona-specific needs. Sandee McCullen asked if those people who are going to provide the training will be from the OHV community or will they have to be from land management agencies. Amy Racki said that trainers will not be agencies necessarily. Marge Dwyer said that the program may be out on eCommerce or Grants.gov and therefore available to anyone who wishes to bid. Bid requirements will be settled through the agreement with the BLM (or other land agency), and then go into the request for bid information. Amy Racki said that the proposal as it is specifies paid trainer and program coordinator positions, though not for full-time employees.

Sandee McCullen expressed her concern about working with, or through, the dealers' association. She feels that they will exercise an undue influence on the amount and quality of training that will be made available. Amy Racki said that the agreement will help keep the OHV training process well in hand. Bringing the dealers' association to the discussion table will provide valuable input, but input only. As long as ASP funds are being used, ASP (including OHVAG) would have the final say in how the program functions. Chair John said that the rural dealers may not be heavily involved in the dealers' association. Further discussion on the participation of the dealers' association in the process followed.

Sandee McCullen then asked if the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) could be included in any program involving the NRCDs and in particular youth education. They are developing an interactive CD for riders 13-18 years of age. Discussion followed on the eligibility of funds for developing of CDs/DVDs with maps. Hank Rogers wanted to ascertain whether the funds would be available, and Bob Baldwin assured him that under the program being discussed, those items can be funded.

Rebecca Antle asked why the BLM is being considered as the major partner for this project. Amy Racki replied that there is a possibility that the USFS could also "pick up" this project, however the BLM is offering the CCS funds for matching, and that there is a history between ASP and BLM for OHV education.

Amy Racki asked for the input of OHVAG as to whether the dealer packet and dealer-customer education would be the proper direction. Mike Sipes said that he feels as long as further funds are available through BLM this direction is clearly the right one and the program should go forward. Bob Baldwin said that he feels partnering with the BLM will help in the goal of getting the best value for the investment in this program. This program is still a “test” of how best to get that value for the money.

Sandee McCullen asked whether a meeting with the USFS and Recreation Solutions would be possible. She feels that keeping the program in-house at ASP would be preferable to involving federal agencies. Rebecca Antle said that any education attempt should feature OHV usage in a more positive light than it has been currently. Further discussion followed on positive and negative messages about the OHV community and within the OHV community regarding agencies. Amy Racki said that bringing the discussion to Recreation Solutions and the BLM is feasible.

3. Project Status and Allocation of the FY2007 OHV Recreation Fund.

Amy Racki said that this item is a Staff update to the Group on the FY2007 funds. The ASP Board allocated \$860,000 from the OHV Recreation Fund for projects in three categories: 1) on-site management presence, 2) motorize route evaluations and 3) OHV user education.

Updating for the on-site management presence category: Troy Waskey is coordinating the design and purchase of OHV Ambassador materials as well as volunteer-training meetings. The OHV photo contest entries were recently reviewed and the results will be posted shortly. Many of those photos will be used for the statewide education trailer graphics and several other uses. There were no photos of snowmobiles and sand-rails, but those activities should be represented in the OHV projects.

The OHV “small projects” requests have been received from the various land management agencies. There were forty requests, which were rated as eligible or non-eligible, since the program is non-competitive.

Amy Racki went on to describe the project requests submitted. The ASLD requests on the whole were for enforcement and education. BLM made requests for signage, access guide and the like. The USFS projects varied from signage to route connections to fencing and barriers. One ASLD project was deemed ineligible because it had more relation to historic preservation rather than OHV use. Another ASLD project was deemed ineligible, dealing with OHV user information, and ASP will work with them further on this project. BLM submitted a trail stabilization project that was very interesting, but was ineligible under the current guidelines.

The project involved holding a workshop for single-track user groups about unengineered trails and tool use. The course is \$3700, takes two days, and provides tools. Amy Racki said that there are education funds from FY2007 that might be used to fund this project. She asked OHVAG for their thoughts on this project. OHVAG said that user group training is a very positive thing, and should be encouraged. Sandee McCullen said that there are several certified trail design and building people that could be relied on to hold these sorts of courses in the future.

Chair John asked whether there would be evaluation information available on how well this program is working before OHVAG needed to decide whether to continue offering it. Amy Racki said that the projects have a twelve-month time frame for completion and that the latest start date is June 30, 2007. Because the decision to continue the project will need to be made relatively soon, there would likely not be a great deal of evaluation information available. However, if there is information available it will be provided to OHVAG. She suggested working with the federal fiscal calendar next year.

Mike Sipes asked if we were funding what we intended to fund, and whether the program was oversubscribed if all eligible projects were funded. Amy Racki said that all eligible projects were funded.

Mike Sipes then asked about the “hold” designation on some projects. Amy Racki said that some projects had a “hold” placed on them because the agency can request up to three projects per field office. If more were requested then the additional project could be funded if sufficient funds were available after everything else was funded. The BLM had several projects submitted from the Hassayampa and Lower Sonora field offices. The number and type of projects were deemed more suitable for the competitive RTP grants program, of which they already have a grant of approximately \$1,000,000. Those funds will expire if not used. So using those funds first for projects would be preferable to disbursing these small projects funds. The “hold” meant that those projects should be amended into the existing RTP grant. Mike Sipes asked if the ASP Board could make a blanket amendment. Bob Baldwin said that the grant could be amended administratively without the ASP Board as long as there were no new scope items. Like items can be added to an existing grant. For example, if trail renovation is part of the grant, then additional trail renovation can be added. Amy Racki added that the first half of the Hassayampa/Agua Fria National Monument project would be funded, but not the second half. This “small projects” program is not designed to circumvent the grants program by dividing large projects into smaller pieces for funding. Amy Racki said that in the future, there should probably be more guidelines developed for the program.

Amy Racki noted that under project #10, for the Boulders Staging Area, the request was made for a concrete pad for a host trailer. This is a development project, but that there are other components to the project as submitted which may make it ineligible, such as a host stipend. She asks that OHVAG provide some input on this. Should the funds go to a federal agency for a part-time staff in the future?

Mike Sipes said that he had been a vocal supporter of small projects in the past, and that his vision was that the funds go to facilities rather than staff. He feels that the individual agencies should take responsibility for those expenditures. Sandee McCullen agreed. Mike Sipes said that projects should clearly show the OHV community that funds are being allocated and expended in a way that directly benefits them. Chair John said that the group's philosophy has always been to fund on the ground projects. Amy Racki asked if the concrete pad that allowed the host to be present should be funded, rather than funding the actual host. OHVAG said that the pad is an on the ground project.

Sandee McCullen asked about project #23, it was unique in that it requested rehabilitation of an OHV impacted area containing endangered species. Sandee McCullen asked whether the amount of the project was in line with the scope of work. Bob Baldwin said that the project involved building road berms to keep people on the designated road.

Sandee McCullen also asked about projects 24-26. Amy Racki said that projects for the Coronado National Forest were all eligible. They were specific in their cost breakdowns, which included many signs for the described project area. Bob Baldwin said that the signs were probably designed to control access to the OHV trails, rather than having several access points. Chair John wanted to be clear that none of the small projects should be related to OHV route closure, especially to the public.

Sandee McCullen mentioned that environmental mitigation funding should be allowed in some case, but should in no way expand to use up all of the small projects funds. Hanks Rogers mentioned that in the Alpine Ranger District, his user group had worked closely with a USFS biologist to open a previously closed trail as long as the riders slowed down to mitigate the noise created. This would take into account the endangered owl species that lives along the trail. Pete Pfeifer said that, as part of the user education, riders should be informed of the location of environmentally sensitive areas, though this may be difficult.

Mike Sipes asked about the maintenance and limited maintenance referred to in the agenda documents. Amy Racki said that projects 38-39 refer to maintenance-type projects, such as replacing a bathroom door at an OHV

staging area, or snow-plowing for access in the winter. Amy Racki wanted to discuss funding these types of projects on an ongoing basis, especially considering day-to-day maintenance. Mike Sipes said that, for example, buying the cleaning supplies for the restroom would not be eligible, but that replacing the bathroom roof to keep it functioning and available would be eligible. Rebecca Antle said that funding facility upgrades and improvements would be fine. Hank Rogers asked about snowplow rental for access; what if there is no snow. Amy Racki provided more information on the snowplow request, meaning that there would be gravel at the trailhead and so on. If there were no snow, the money would go back into the pot.

Amy Racki said that there was one project involving education and law enforcement on project #38. The request is to pay staff overtime to conduct activities similar to the OHV Ambassador meet-and-greet events. This would increase on the ground management presence, however, funding existing staff overtime seems to be out of the criteria. Hank Rogers noted that if the OHV legislation passes, the AGFD would be hiring new officers for law enforcement and those officers would be available in the future.

Rebecca Antle asked about projects 17-19 in the Lower Sonoran Field Office of the BLM, and whether their route evaluation/travel management plan was still in the public review phase. Signage for those areas could not yet be determined because the routes have not yet been finalized. Bob Baldwin said that parts of the project had already been included in the statewide grant mentioned earlier. Sandee McCullen asked if Staff were taking into consideration the various stages of the travel management plan process when reviewing these requests. Bill Gibson said that the plan would be issued in draft form late this summer. As of now, the designations are for existing roads and trails, and the requested signage would be for those existing roads. Rebecca Antle asked whether those routes would change. Bill Gibson said that having people stay on the existing routes would be the purpose of the signage. Rebecca Antle said that permanent signage would not be cost-effective. Bill Gibson said that the three-year grant approved to fund the signage was in its final six months, and these (additional) funds would be used to ensure the signing projects were complete. Sandee McCullen said that it would be best for the grant funds to be used for this purpose, rather than providing additional funds for the signage. Bob Baldwin said that this topic is on the agenda later.

Ms. Hernbrode reminded the Group that this discussion was meant to focus on whether or not OHVAG would like to see similar projects funded during the next cycle of small projects applications. The projects presented today have already been decided upon based on whether they did or did

not meet the criteria previously established. Mike Sipes thanked Staff for doing a very good job in reviewing these applications. Amy Racki said that the criteria for small projects will be agendized for further discussion prior to next year's cycle.

Amy Racki noted that a brief overview of the FY2007 OHV Project Status began on page 28 of the agenda packets. This provides the status on funding each of the categories of OHV projects. Currently, \$809,000 will be obligated this year, including the possible \$73,000 for the dealer packet and \$10,000 for the NRCDs. This makes an approximate \$51,000 left available to spend for FY2007.

The Tonto National Forest asked whether it would be possible to fund a printer and software for the Bulldog area for the special badges to be provided to users accessing the area. Tammy Pike noted that this would be an initial trial of these badges in the Bulldog area, which would expand to other areas in the future. The badges would look like drivers licenses. The cost would be ~\$10,000. Sandee McCullen said that she would like to see the BLM develop the same process, so she is in favor of the project. Mike Sipes asked if these badges would have to be processed in person. Tammy Pike said that, because the badges have a photographic component, they would have to be issued in person. This card would be a permanent access badge to the Bulldog area. The area is intended for the use of a certain type of user. Amy Racki noted that this could potentially qualify under the "on-site management" part of this program. The discussion is about whether to fund this sort of printer and software in the future.

Sandee McCullen said that she feels this type of badge is probably the wave of the future. She asked if the software provided a reader of who is entering the area. Tammy Pike said that this badge replaces the paperwork that is a problem area at the moment. The paper badges are problematic for display. Card-key capabilities are being considered for the future. The badge is on a per vehicle basis.

Mike Sipes feels that this request is not for a user facility, but rather would fund a management function of the agency. Bob Baldwin said that it could be seen as a controlled access issue. If illegal access is better controlled, more access to routes will be available.

4. Discuss FY2008 OHV Recreation Fund.

Amy Racki noted that plans for the FY2008 OHV Recreation Fund would need to be presented to the ASP Board in July at their annual budget meeting. The FY2007 funds amounting to approximately \$860,000 are planned to be almost entirely obligated. An additional \$100,000 from FY2007 OHV project funds is available. There should be approximately

\$1.1 million dollars incoming for FY2008, for a total of \$1.2 million available.

Some estimates for continuing the projects begun this year have been made, including \$188,000 for route evaluations. However, there may be fewer route evaluations done in FY2009 and even fewer in FY2010. Sandee McCullen asked if the USFS had provided the route evaluation information; Amy Racki said they had provided some information on which the estimate was based. Sandee McCullen then continued, asking about the status of moving route evaluations and route inventory into the final travel management plan. Tammy Pike replied that the funds listed were only for route evaluation, and she feels that the estimates are significantly undervalued. The FY2007 funds have gone to evaluate routes in the Cave Creek Ranger District on the Tonto National Forest. That district contains the highest number of miles of any district in the forest, along with the Mesa Ranger District. In the coming year, there will be fewer miles to evaluate, simply because there are fewer miles in the districts remaining. Tammy Pike went on to say that some National Forests are conducting their route evaluations entirely in this year and part of the next. There will be fewer routes to evaluate in the last half of 2008 and in 2009. The largest task in FY2007 is route evaluation in most places.

Mike Sipes said he was under the impression that no money was needed for route evaluation. He had done some route evaluation in the Globe Ranger District, and was told that those roads don't go through, or don't exist. Sandee McCullen said that she does not want to decrease the funding for route evaluation.

Amy Racki said that the amounts listed are estimates based on information provided by the USFS and BLM about the amount of route evaluation still left to be done. Other factors include the cost of evaluation, which is affected by the evaluation method. ASP pays up to 50% of the cost, which could be as much as \$15/mile. The agencies have requested \$188,000 for next year for evaluation. The dealer packet program is estimated at another \$100,000; estimated contribution to the NRCDs is \$20,000. Another \$10,000 contribution is estimated for the Outdoor Recreation Center. Estimates for the conflict management presence program and training and the small projects are another \$400,000. So she requests some brainstorming of OHVAG for suggestions on spending the money.

Mike Sipes says that increased emphasis on volunteer training in trail maintenance and construction was mentioned earlier as an area where OHVAG would like to increase spending. Chair John said that he favors increasing spending on youth education through schools. Sandee McCullen agrees that the education program is worthwhile and suggests partnering with NOHVCC and their youth outreach. Chair John also

mentioned the importance of maps and information. Hank Rogers also mentioned maps as important. Mike Sipes said that he'd seen some of the travel management plan maps already produced outside Arizona, and found them to be inadequate. Sandee McCullen said that she had seen the maps as well, and thought that mapping should probably be a priority.

Amy Racki said that the volunteer training would be through the onsite management presence program. Additional training could be either contracted out or conducted by ASP and its partners. There are ways to achieve the increased user training. Youth education through schools may be achieved by increasing the contribution to the NRCDs, but there may potentially be other outlets. Chair John said that if the NRCDs are doing a good job, then they should continue; if not, then ASP could look for other partners.

Amy Racki said, about maps and information, she is looking for strategies to get more maps on the ground and in users' hands. Sandee McCullen said that map distribution must involve the dealers as a distribution point. Dealers want maps. Mike Sipes said that the quality of the maps is extremely important, because a map must be useful. Sandee McCullen said that riding area kiosks are a good place for maps and information. Clubs have "adopted" kiosks and are ensuring that maps and access guides are available. Chair John said that Chamber of Commerce offices are good distribution points, as well as map producers. If the Chambers could have some funding funneled their way, they could probably produce and distribute good maps. Further discussion of maps followed. The emphasis should be on quality maps, well distributed. The access guides should be available at riding areas.

Amy Racki asked about who would develop and produce the maps as well as get them to the distribution points. Would this require hiring someone? Would they develop, perhaps a temporary map, for a certain area or community, working with the land management agencies? Sandee McCullen said that until the travel management plans are firmed and finalized, the maps will change constantly and therefore producing expensive maps would not be of benefit. Chair John said that maps could be living documents. Hank Rogers said that the Eagar grant was set up to produce one map per year for three years to accommodate the changes to the travel management plan. Rebecca Antle said that flier-type maps, produced with correct information inexpensively would be good for now. Mike Sipes agreed that that sort of map would be a good base to begin with. Chair John asked if a study on the cost of map preparation could be done. Hank Rogers suggested contacting the National Geographic Society to produce maps. Chair John said that map updates could be done electronically through GPS information. Hank Rogers said that someone would need to ride the routes to ensure accurate and current information.

Sandee McCullen said that GPS information is available for almost all the routes in the bigger areas. Amy Racki said that an interagency brainstorming session is upcoming, and the map subject will be discussed. Tammy Pike said that the current travel management maps are not necessarily intended to be visitor use maps; they are legal documents, only good for a year. The USFS is hoping to coordinate with dealers to print the visitor use maps eventually. Chair John said that making a start is of utmost important.

Bill Gibson said that, with the BLM's current grant, there will be about a dozen access guides printed in small runs through the Field Offices. Mike Sipes said he reviewed the map provided by the Lakeside District yesterday, and it is an okay map, though it doesn't show intersecting roads. He feels that ASP funded the map, but doesn't meet all user expectations. There needs to be a better level of detail.

Hanks Rogers asked about the interagency meeting. Amy Racki said that the meeting would be held in mid-April and is intended to gather information and what the land management agencies feel are their needs for the upcoming year. Sandee McCullen said that no one disagrees that maps are a priority. Because the travel management plans are changing, the maps on the ground for right now should be accurate but inexpensive. Amy Racki said that the agencies are all in agreement that they need more people on the ground to accomplish their goals. Further discussion focused on how agencies might get some extra help.

Amy Racki thanked OHVAG for their ideas.

5. Discuss State Trails Conference.

Amy Racki noted that the State Trails Conference combines both motorized and non-motorized trails interests. The Conference will be held October 4-6 at Prescott Pines Camp in Prescott, Arizona. There will be one 45-minute session on the travel management plan, and Amy Racki is soliciting ideas for the agenda for that session. The planning committee is meeting next week, and ideas for the session could be eMailed to Amy Racki as well as discussed now. What would OHVAG like to see discussed in the session at the Conference. Hank Rogers suggested that the session discuss the need for mapping and how that could be done. Sandee McCullen said that would be a good idea as long as it includes both motorized and non-motorized ideas for mapping. Mike Sipes suggested discussing reciprocity with states around Arizona, which is an issue for riders. Sandee McCullen said that there are members of NOHVCC who could lead that discussion. Chair John said that someone might be invited to discuss on how to develop good maps. Hank Rogers feels that the agencies would be very open to having outside mapping groups come in to

produce the maps. Amy Racki asked if anyone had a specific speaker in mind. Rebecca Antle said that the OHV laws should be a topic of discussion, to clarify what the current rules are. Further discussion on rules and laws for the session followed. Bob Baldwin noted that sessions could be developed on most topics if the interested party could provide materials and a qualified speaker.

Hank Rogers again brought up mapping. Amy Racki said that the different aspects of mapping could be discussed in various sessions such as the Success Stories. Hank Rogers then said that he would be willing to speak at the funding session about the Eagar grant.

6. Discuss OHV Legislation.

Chair John said that he, Hank Rogers, Amy Racki, Jay Ziemann (ASP Assistant Director) and a representative from AGFD attended the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee (NRC) meeting discussing the OHV legislation. The legislation has passed the House of Representatives 51-3, and then went to the Senate and the NRC. State Senator Jake Flake proposed an amendment to the legislation that addressed some of his concerns. Chair John and Hank Rogers spoke about the legislation before the NRC. The legislation passed the NRC 7-0. Currently, the bill is before the Appropriations Committee.

Hank Rogers spoke about a call from the Governor. She told him that the bill as it stands now is a bill she likely supports. There remain several stages before the bill can be passed into law, including the Appropriations Committee meeting, the Senate caucus meetings, Senate Rules Committee meeting and the Committee of the Whole before the Senate vote. With Senator Flake's amendment the bill will be engrossed (combined with the amendment) and be seen by the House of Representatives again.

Chair John said that he told the Appropriations Committee that trying to perfect the bill before passing any OHV laws is self-defeating. Forward motion needs to be made. Hank Rogers said that passing a law will help solve some of the reciprocity issues outstanding at the moment.

Chair John encourages anyone that feels strongly on the issue speak before the Appropriations Committee. Amy Racki said that she had an inquiry from a former OHVAG member about riding on paved roads. She has provided a compilation of state responses regarding rules about riding on paved roads.

7. Discuss County Master Plan.

Amy Racki said that the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan is in the final draft stages and is going before their Board of Supervisors for approval. The Plan trails map is provided in the agenda packet. Staff is requesting for a statement of support or comments for the County plan to include motorized trails, on the level of informing the County that OHVAG supports the inclusion of motorized recreation in the plan. The County lead is the Pinal County Parks and Recreation Department. The BLM has provided inventory data to Pinal County on the Great Western Trail (GWT). The Arizona Trail is non-motorized, so that the GWT along that corridor is not proposed for OHV recreation in the plan. There are other areas, such as Desert Wells, with the ASLD also not proposed.

Joy Hernbrode noted that typically OHVAG would not produce a letter of recommendation or like document on its own. The Group can forward a request that the ASP Board take action and produce the letter or other action. The Group can direct Staff to provide it with further information, and make requests that the Board take certain actions.

Sandee McCullen said that the map as provided by the County should show the major trails around the north Florence area. The actual designation of those routes is up to the land management agencies however, those particular areas shown are the major access to open space corridors.

Rebecca Antle asked if this plan was related to the Pinal County Trails Plan. She had attended meetings regarding the development of the trail plan. She also said that the goal of those meetings had been to have main trails and areas set aside so that development would not obliterate those areas. Sandee McCullen said that the open space plan is to set aside spaces that will not be developed at all, so that this document goes beyond trails.

Amy Racki asked that OHVAG make a recommendation to the ASP Board to send a letter about including motorized recreation. She said that she believes the non-motorized trails advisory group (ASCOT) will be making a similar recommendation.

Mike Sipes moved that OHVAG request that the ASP Board draft a letter to Pinal County supporting their Trails and Open Space Master Plan, including motorized recreation. Hank Rogers seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

8. Discuss Pima Motorsports Park.

Chair John said that this item was on the agenda to discuss the status of the Park.

Amy Racki said that to her knowledge there had been no change in status. The fee remains \$25, and the Park is primarily open to ATVs and motorcycles. The majority of their funding comes from race events. At the last meeting, Sandee McCullen had made the observation that the track was not challenging enough. Amy Racki continued that at this time it appears that no changes are planned.

Sandee McCullen asked whether OHVAG might oversee the operations of the Park before the Park goes out of business. She said the track is not nationally certified and she has had a lot of input from users that they will not go to the Park because it's too easy.

Chair John asked if the Park had applied for maintenance money. Amy Racki said that they had informally asked for routine operating expense money, at \$250,000 annually. Without those funds, it was noted that Park may have financial difficulties. Chair John then asked if there had been a business plan provided by the Park. Amy Racki said that the current operators feel that they are going to survive, and are probably focused more on the race event aspect. Mike Sipes said that the operating money should come from Pima County. Rebecca Antle said that insurance costs are a problem for this business, and Pima County is not going to help with expenses. Chair John said that the track in Safford is run by volunteers on a track leased from Graham County.

Rebecca Antle asked if Amy Racki could speak to the Pima County person in charge of this particular facility about their business plan. Amy Racki will speak to the County.

Chair John asked if any of the funds already provided by ASP to the Park would be repaid if the business fails. Bob Baldwin said no, that the Park had been funded before a repayment agreement became part of the standard grant agreement.

D. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report – Chair John advised that he had no report.

2. Staff Reports:

a) Update on ASPB Actions

Amy Racki said that the Board had taken no actions on OHV items at their last meeting. Chair John asked about how the ASP Board feels about the OHV Legislation. Amy Racki believes that it has not been a full item for discussion in the Board. Executive Staff has discussed the legislation.

b) Report on 2007 RTP Grants

Bob Baldwin noted that today is the close of the FY2007 RTP grant cycle, and that he would also be reporting on some existing grants.

He noted that he had received inquiries for the FY2007 grant cycle from two entities, as well as their applications. One application is for the Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, which is developing a new access point to the Sycamore Creek area in conjunction with ADOT's safe access project involving Bush Highway. This would be a total of a million to a million and half dollar project, and because grants are capped at \$280,000, there should be multiple applications involved. This request is for \$278,000.

The second applicant is BLM-Kingman Field Office. The project is route inventory, signage and access guides in the Cerbat Mountain and White Mountain units. Their request is for \$85,000.

This brings the total grant requests to \$363,000, which is less than the FY2005 allotment. There remains the FY2006 and FY2007 allotments unspent.

There have not been any questions or requests for help with the applications. Sandee McCullen asked if the grant application is still too difficult for applicants to navigate. She feels this is why there are so few applications when the need for funding is clear. Bob Baldwin replied that agencies under the small projects requests, are trying to take grant-eligible projects and break them into smaller pieces. The application is not that difficult; it simply seems that eligible entities are choosing not to write the grant application.

Rebecca Antle said that she has spoken with the Coronado National Forest and advised them that grant funds are available; they seemed to demonstrate unawareness of the program.

Hank Rogers said that the problem may be having the time and staff to put together a good application. The application may be less than difficult, but it is time-consuming. Bob Baldwin replied that getting the cost estimates and other supporting documents may take some time, but most of the work is already done for most entities. Further discussion of the application followed.

Bob Baldwin then reported on some existing grants and the progress on those projects. The BLM multiagency grant will not be

able to make the acquisitions in the Kingman Field Office as planned. There was \$160,000 allocated for the acquisitions. Of that \$15,000 or \$20,000 will be spent. Additionally, the amount of funding for access guides to the different areas was overestimated; there will be approximately \$200,000 left over from both projects. The BLM, as noted above, had requested funding for several small projects, however those projects are eligible to be funded under this grant. ASP has advised BLM of that eligibility, as they are approved scope items. Bill Gibson advises that the BLM will not request any time-extensions on the project work, so the projects should all be completed by the fall of 2007. Further information on the RTP funds will be made available at the annual joint meeting.

The other existing grant is the Eagar/Apache-Sitgreaves project, which is being amended. The award was \$287,000 for route inventory and mapping, including the production of a DVD. There was also one piece involving some road renovation. The DVD item has been removed from the scope of the grant, which “frees up” approximately \$90,000. Those funds will be used for additional renovation; including a bridge over Paddy Creek on the Ben Lilly trail. The entire grant award remains unchanged. All that remains is some documentation (MOU and Participant Agreement). The trail inventory is being conducted now. There will be three maps produced, showing the route inventory as it develops.

c) Report on Air Quality Executive Order

Amy Racki said that, as of March 31, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is due to come out with a plan to improve air quality in the state and make recommendations to the government about how to do that. This Executive Order most likely applies mostly to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima Counties.

Hank Rogers said that the Builders’ Association comment on the plan was to ban all ATV riding in Maricopa County, however that recommendation has little traction. Amy Racki will continue to provide information on the Executive Order as it develops. Hank Rogers asked that either ADEQ or the Maricopa County Air Quality Commission make a presentation on this issue.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

**F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD
PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 4, 2007 – Joint Meeting with ASCOT at the Carnegie Center in Phoenix. Amy Racki noted that the facility is close to the ASP offices. The joint meeting will be held at 10:00am and the OHVAG business meeting will be at 1:00pm.

Ms. Hernbrode noted that she would not be able to attend either meeting that day.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Mike Sipes moved to adjourn the meeting. Hank Rogers seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.